

In Loving Memory

"Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy." (Matthew 25:21)

Rev. Father Paul Oneid | Maronite Catholic Priest | January 25, 1926 – October 13, 2026

With profound faith and sorrow, we announce the passing of Father Paul Oneid, who returned to the Lord after a lifetime of extraordinary service. A devoted priest for 75 years and a guiding shepherd to generations of the faithful, he was also a loving husband and father, and a church builder. Scholar, educator, mayor, author, and family patriarch, he leaves a legacy rooted in faith, wisdom, and leadership.

Father Paul was born on January 25, 1926, in Aychieh, Jezzine District, Lebanon, to the late Youssef Khalil Oneid and Nazira Boutros Tedy. He dedicated his life to God, his Church, his family, and the communities he faithfully served.

Vocation and Formation

- 1938–1944: Studied at the Clerical School of Mar Abda, Harharaia
- 1945–1952: Attended the prestigious Ain Warka Clerical College
- 1952: Ordained to the Holy Priesthood at the Monastery of Ghosta

Ministry and Service

- 1952–1957: Regional Parish Priest, Kfour and Kfarwa, Nabatieh District
- 1957–1974: Parish Priest and Principal of E&M Episcopal School, Alma El Chaab, Tyre District
- 1974–2020: Parish Priest of Aychieh, Jezzine District
- 1976–1984: Professor at colleges in Beirut and surrounding areas
- 1978–1984: Parish Priest of Araya, Baabda District
- 2001: Led the reconstruction of St. Anthony's Church in Aychieh after the devastation of the civil war

Beyond his priestly ministry, Father Paul served his hometown as Mayor of Aychieh from 1964 to 2001. He endured the tragedy of the 1976 Aychieh Massacre, which displaced his family and parishioners until their return in 1984. In the decades that followed, he continued his pastoral mission between Lebanon and Ottawa, Canada. He assisted parish priests, served the faithful, and remained active in Church service until the remarkable age of 97.

Funeral Services

Visitation will be held on October 15 and 16, 2026, from 4:30 PM to 9:00 PM at Saint Charbel Church, 245 Donald Street, Ottawa, Canada. The Funeral Liturgy will be celebrated at the same church on October 17, 2026, at 10:30 AM.

After the Funeral Liturgy, Father Paul will be returned to his beloved homeland of Lebanon, where he will be laid to rest at the Church of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception in his hometown of Aychieh. The date of his entombment will be announced at a later time.

Family, friends, and all whose lives Father Paul touched are invited to share condolences, memories, and reflections in the memorial guestbook at www.fatherpauloneid.com.

In lieu of flowers and wreaths, the family respectfully requests memorial donations to Saint Charbel Church in Ottawa, in loving memory of Father Paul.

Arabic Publications

A man of deep intellect, scholarship, and faith, Father Paul authored seventeen books reflecting his theological insight, cultural heritage, poetic inspiration, and lifelong service. His published works, available at www.fatherpauloneid.com, remain a lasting gift to his Church, community, family, and future generations.

Earthly Family

True to the Maronite heritage of a married priesthood, Father Paul joined his priestly vocation with family life. In 1951 he married Souad Boulos Aoun of Kfour (Nabatieh), his beloved wife of 75 years. Her love and strength have been the heart of their home. Together they built a close and faithful family of more than 50 members.

- Father of Joe (Copal), George, Pierre (Michele), and Marlon (Wadia); and of Laura (John Hamzo), Clemence (Elias Bouary), Rita (Clovis Ghafari), and Nina (Antoine Arej); and their families abroad.
- Cherished grandfather of 24 grandchildren and great-grandfather of 10 in Canada and the United States. Among them is his grandson Paul Ghafari, who follows in his grandfather's footsteps on the path to the priesthood.
- Brother of Robert Oneid (Therese) and family (Lebanon); the late Isabelle (the late Chaiban Saleh) and family (Canada); Victoria (the late Ibrahim Baliki) and family (Canada); and the late Therese (the late Tanios Tedy) and family (Lebanon).
- Nephew of the late Melhem Anid, the late Elias Tedy, and the late Marie (the late Hanna Ghanem), and their families.

Father Paul founded the ONEID Association, through which he strengthened family ties and preserved the Oneid family's heritage across generations. He is mourned also by the families of Aychieh in Lebanon and Canada.

A 75-Year Legacy of Service

Father Paul's 75 years of priestly service were marked by profound faith and intellectual depth. Through his pastoral ministry, teaching, and writing, he nurtured parishioners and students at home and abroad.

As Mayor of Aychieh, he guided his hometown through years of hardship and upheaval. The Vatican, Special Olympics, and Canadian and Lebanese authorities recognized his service. His seventeen books, together with his pastoral work and leadership, leave a lasting mark on his Church and the people he served.

Through it all, he built and raised a devoted family. He will be remembered as a priest and shepherd, scholar and poet, theologian and philosopher, builder and mayor, husband and father. His was a life of service that will live on for generations.

As we commend Father Paul Oneid to the mercy of God, we hold fast to the promise of our Lord:
"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die." (John 11:25–26)
May Christ, our Good Shepherd, receive His faithful servant into the boundless joy of the Kingdom, where earthly labors give way to eternal rest, and the reward of a life faithfully lived shines forevermore.

